United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/930
12 July 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Morocco and Frente POLISARIO accept Secretary-General's proposal that a formal cease-fire begin at 0600 GMT on 6 September.

- Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for the Middle East completes h umanitarian mission to Iraq.

- Mexico City talks between Government of El Salvador and FMLN end with "some progress" but "no major breakthroughs".

- Inter-agency mission to go to Lebanon from 15-24 July to assess reconstruction and rehabilitation needs.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has informed the Security Council that both Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO have accepted his proposal for a specific date and hour to be set for a formal cease-fire in Western Sahara.

In a letter dated 8 July to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General said the parties had agreed that the cease-fire will begin at 0600 GMT on 6 September.

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Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General for the Middle East, has completed a mission to Iraq and is expected to return to Geneva tomorrow to prepare a report for the Secretary-General on the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi civilian population.

According to a United Nations spokeswoman, Prince Sadruddin and members of a United Nations team flew yesterday to Nasariya in southern Iraq, the scene of heavy fighting in post-war strife. Prince Sadruddin had met there with the Governor and proceeded by road to Hammar, a village identified as a possible United Nations humanitarian centre. In Hammar, Prince Sadruddin's

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team, accompanied by a contingent of United Nations guards, was met by a United Nations convoy carrying supplies from the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The spokeswoman said Prince Sadruddin's intention was to maintain two or three staff members with a few guards in Hammar "to monitor relief distribution and guarantee a United Nations presence".

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The current round of talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) has ended in Mexico City. At the end of yesterday's meeting, Alvaro de Soto, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, told the press that "some progress was made, but with no major breakthroughs". According to a United Nations spokeswoman, working groups had been established during the session to continue discussions on armed forces, which had been the main topic. Mr. de Soto is expected to return to New York over the weekend.

The negotiations began in September 1989 when the two parties agreed to initiate a dialogue aimed at ending the armed conflict in El Salvador by political means.

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A United Nations inter-agency needs assessment mission will go to Lebanon from 15 to 24 July as a first step in the intensified efforts of the Secretary-General to mobilize the United Nations system to assist Lebanon in its reconstruction and development.

That is in keeping with a request by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/225, and with the recent lifting of certain security restrictions in Lebanon. The mission has been organized under the guidance of Ronald I. Spiers, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, who coordinates the system-wide action under the programme for United Nations Assistance for Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL). It will gauge the immediate and longer-term needs of the country for social and economic rehabilitation and development.

Fourteen specialized United Nations agencies and programmes will be participating in the mission and have nominated experts who will be proceeding to Beirut. It was announced that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be the lead agency, and that Mohamed A. Nour, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director, will head the mission.

On completion of the mission, the Secretary-General will receive a report outlining priority needs and programmes for Lebanon's rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable development requirements which will be provided to the international community.

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